

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for traffic congestion control at the  
media access controller (MAC) level. The MAC receives an  
inbound packet and preclassifies the packet for determining its  
priority. A utilization level of a queue associated with the  
determined priority is analyzed for determining its level of  
congestion. The packet is admitted or not based on the  
10 congestion information. Admitted packets are forwarded to the  
packet switching controller which engages in further  
classification and congestion control for determining whether  
the admitted packet is to be forwarded to a destination address.

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